(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the likely import bill during the current financial year;

(d) what are the reasons for rise in imports; and

(e) what action is being taken to curb the imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item refers to growth in imports of 1.5 per cent and growth in exports of 24.6 per cent during the 1st Quarter of the current financial year over the corresponding period of last year.

(c) It would be difficult at this stage to assess precisely the import bill for the whole year.

(d) and (e) The rise in imports of 1.5 per cent is marginal. However, the Import Policy is under constant review so as to avoid unnecessary imports.

Closure of handloom units in Maharashtra

1367. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the closure of handlooms units in Maharashtra has led to decrease in handloom exports and increased unemployment; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the handloom units had suffered a set back due to inadequate support and marketing infrastructure?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) According to information supplied by Government of Maharashtra, there were only 498 looms in Maharashtra meant for production of exportable varieties of handloom products. Out of these only 177 looms are functioning now. The closure of 321 looms, although substantial as compared to the total looms for exports in Maharashtra, is rather insignificant when compared to the total handloom exports as also the total number of looms in the country.

(b) No, Sir. Handloom units had not suffered a set back due to inadequate support and marketing infrastructure but due to mis-management and production of varieties which were not of exportable quality.

Re-opening of Hope Textile Mills Indore

1368. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the steps being taken by Government to reopen Hope Textile Mill at Indore which is lying closed since a long time, so as to provide employment to about a thousand workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): The Textile Policy of June, 1985 states that where a unit has no expectation of becoming viable in a reasonable period of time, there may be no alternative but to allow the unit to close down provided the interests of labour are fully protected. A Nodal Agency has been set up under the Textile Policy of June, 1985 to examine the viability or otherwise of sick textile units and to evolve and manage rehabilitation packages in respect of those units which are found to be potentially viable. The Nodal Agency in its meeting held on 7.7.86 has come to the conclusion that Hope Textiles, Indore is non-viable.

Sale of Janata cloth in black market

1369. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received complaints to the effect that Janata cloth earmarked for the poor was